(vi) Strengthening management and ecodevelopment planning capability.

[*Translation*]

Study of National Movement

1040. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make the study of history of national movement and its values compulsory upto the Primary and Secondary education;

(b) if so, whether any syllabus has been prepared for that purpose; and

(c) if not, the time by which the said syllabus is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The National Policy of Education (NPE) 1986 has identified the history of India's freedom movement as the first of the ten components of the core curriculum at the school stage.

(b) Yes, Sir. keeping the postulates of the NPE in view, the NCERT brought out in 1988, a National Curricular Framework for all stages of school education. On the basis of the Framework guidelines, the NCERT revised the School syllabi and brought out revised textbooks for classes I to XII in phases up to December, 1990. the NCERT syllabi of courses in History include the history of India's freedom movement. Many elements of the history of freedom movement have also been integrated into the NCERT syllabi of Civics and languages.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

UN Environment Programme Meeting at Nairobi

1041. SHRI RABI RAY;
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India attended the special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme held at Nairobi during the first week of February;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the council thereto; and

(d) the stand formulated by the Council particularly India which is to be taken at the forthcoming Earth Summit in Brazil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Special Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at Nairobi from FEB; 3-5, 1992. The main items considered in this session were:

i) The State-of-the-Environment Report of the Executive Director of UNEP for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

ii) Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and its financing.

iii) UN Secretary General's

Report on follow up to UN General Assembly Resolutions 42/186 and 42/187.

(c) and (d). The decisions adopted at this Special Session of the Governing Council, which includes India, are given in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

Decisions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at its Special Session held in Nairobi from February 3-5, 1992.

Decision No	*Title*
SS.III/1	Status of desertification and implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.
SS.III/2	Consolidated report of the Secretary General on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187.
SS.III/3	The state of the environment (1972-1992)
SS.III/1.	Status of desertification and implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977 on the United Nations Conference on Desertification, specifically paragraph 8 thereof whereby the General Assembly, inter alia, entrusted the Governing Council and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme with the responsibility of following up and coordinating the implementation of the Plan of Action of Combat Desertification.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 44/172 A of 19 December 1989, by paragraph 6 of which the General Assembly, inter alia, invited the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to contribute substantially to the discussion on desertification at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, inter alia, by undertaking a general evaluation of the progress achieved in implementing the Plan of Action.

Recalling further its decision 12/10 of 28 May 1984, by paragraph 28 of which it decided that an overall assessment of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action should be carried out in 1992.

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on the status of desertification and implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to combat Desertification,

Recognizing that desertification is a process of land degradation resulting mainly from adverse human impact in the specific conditions of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid climates and from complex interactions among physical, chemical biological, socio-economic and political factor which are of local, national and global nature,

Recognizing further that desertification is a global phenomenon requiring a global response and that it occurs in all continent-

directly affecting more than 60 per cent of the countries of the world in both northern and sourthern hemispheres,

Noting that desertification might have an adverse impact on global climate change and biodiversity, besides diminishing the world food security base and contributing to the growth of poverty,

Recognizing that the cost of anti-desertification measures is escalating from year to year because the areas affected are growing, the degree of damage is increasing and world prices and costs of preventive, corrective and rehabilitative measures are rising,

Aware that existing studies and estimates indicate that failures to combat desertification has resulted in the loss of vast amounts of income,

Aware also that the annual costs of combating desertification have been estimated to be less that half the annual costs of inaction,

Concerned at the continuing and expanding rates of land degradation and desertification, estimated to involve about 73 per cent of the rangelands, 47 per cent of the rainfed croplands and 30 per cent of the irrigated lands in the drylands, thus affecting more than 3.6 billion hectares of the total world area of arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid lands, or about 25 per cent of the total world land area and about 900 million people, or one sixth of the world population,

Also deeply concerned about the impact of desertification on Africa in particular where it is a serious contributory factor to famines, such as those which occurred in 1984 and 1985, affecting between thirty million and thirty-five million people, and in 1991, when some thirty million people were threatened by famine and needed urgent external food aid un order to survive,

Recognising that it is imperative to combat desertification in all parts of the world's arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas,

Also recognizing that sustainable socio-economic development and the protection and enhancement of the environment are inseparable prerequisities of human survival and hence anti-desertification campaigns should be managed as integral parts of socio-economic development of the territories and societies of the drylands,

Further recognizing the significant differences in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in industrialized countries, where development generally does not depend on drylands, and in developing countries, particularly in the Sudano-Sahelian belt of Africa, where the development process relies almost entirely on the natural resource base,

1. Notes with appreciation the reports of the Executive Director on the status of desertification and implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

2. Reaffirms that desertification is a global environmental and socio-economic problem requiring special attention and global international cooperation in implementing the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

3. Affirms its conviction that the priorities set in combating desertification should normally be site-specific and should be decided upon by the people concerned in accordance with the actual situation in each particular country and locality;

4. Stresses the importance of integration the policies for combating desertification into national development plans, strengthening capacities at the national level for research, planning, monitoring and implementation activities, and international support for these purposes;

5. Recommends, bearing in mind paragraph 3 of the present decision, that the Governments participation in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development consider, with a view to combating desertification with maximum cost-effectiveness, the following actions and their required resources, in the following order of priority:

   (a) The first priority action on a global scale, estimated to cost between $ 4.2 billion per year for twenty years, should involve relevant preventive measures to halt the advance of desertification in non-degraded or only slightly degraded dry-lands;

   (b) The second priority action, estimated to cost between $ 2.4 billion and $ 7.2 billion per year for twenty years, should involve implementing corrective measures, in and sustaining the productivity of, moderately degraded drylands;

   (c) The third priority action, estimated to cost between $ 6.2 billion and $ 11 billion per year for twenty years, should involve the rehabilitation of severely and very severely degraded drylands;

6. Recommends that Governments identify ways and means to provide adequate new and additional financial resources and technical assistance, as well as the transfer of environmentally sound technology on most favourable terms*, in particular to the developing countries, to deal with the problem of desertification;

7. Further invites the countries participating in the Global Environment Facility to favourable consider financing programmes to combat desertification;

8. Strongly recommends that Agenda 21, being prepared within the context of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development should address the problem of desertification and that the necessary attention is given to special financing measures to combat desertification;

9. Also strongly recommends that cooperation at the international level to combat desertification should be strengthened in the following areas, particularly with a view to assisting countries, that cannot cope with the problem by themselves;

   (a) Development of pricing and trade policies that would promote sustainable land use and productivity of drylands;

   (b) Provision, when required, of technical assistance and appropriate training programmes;

*In accordance with section I Paragraphs 15 (J) and (M), of General Assembly resolution 44/226 of 22 December 1989

(c) Development of appropriate anti-desertification technologies;

(d) Development of appropriate management systems for drylands and transfer and adaptation of existing and traditional systems;

(e) Monitoring of desertification at the global and regional levels;

(f) Monitoring and coordination of anti-desertification activities at the global and regional levels;

(g) Information exchange and transfer;

(h) Development of necessary national legislation;

10. Requests the Executive Director to transmit his report on the statues of desertification and the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification together with the present decision, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for it to be made available to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its fourth session;

11. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to bring the report of the Executive Director on the status of desertification and implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, together with the present decision, to the attention of the Conference through its preparatory Committee;

12. Further requests the Executive Director:

(a) To give strong emphasis in the work programme of the Desertification control Programme Activity Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme to:

i) Refining the assessment of the status of desertification especially at the regional and national levels;

ii) Promoting the adoption and the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the policy guidelines and course of action presented in chapter III of the report of the Executive Director;

iii) Assigning benchmarks and indicators of progress;

(b) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its seventeenth regular session.

5th meeting
5 February, 1992

SS.III/2 Consolidated report of the Security-General on Further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187.

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 42/186 of 11 December 1987, in which the Assembly adopted the Environmental perspective to the year 2000 and Beyond, and 42/187, also of 11 December 1987, in which the Assembly welcomed the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 44/227 of 22 December 1989, in which the Assembly expressed its views and recommendations for facailitating and promoting the implementation of resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, based on the consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on action taken by Governments and the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations System in connection with sustainable and environmentally sound development,

Noting that the Secretary-General, at the request of the General Assembly, submitted a progress report on the implementation of its resolution 44/227 to the Assembly at its forty sixth session, through the Governing Council and the United nations Environment programme and the Economic and Social Council, and to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling that the General Assembly, by paragraph 20 of its resolution 44/227, also requested the Secretary-General to prepare for submission to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to the General Assembly at its forty-sevenths session, through the Governing Council of the united national Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Council, a new consolidated report on further substantive follow-up to resolution 42/186 and 42/187 by Governments and the organizations of the United Nations system,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, in particular section I, paragraphs 15 (j) and (m) thereof,

Recognizing that the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development have contributed to a significant increase in the awareness of environmental and developmental issues at all levels, and to the increase involvement of citizens at the local level, and also have contributed to an increased mobilization of political will to take the required action,

Also recognising the important role that the Perspective and the report of World Commission played in the decision to convene the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as reflected in General Assembly resolution 4/228 of 22 December 1989,

1. Notes with appreciation the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227 on further substantive follow-up of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, the report being based on information received from thirty-eight Governments and twenty-nine organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

2. Expresses its satisfaction at the following actions and developments at national level in some developed and developing countries.

(a) The preparation of white papers, national environment plans or formal policy statements on the environment and sustainable development reflecting the trans-sectoral nature of these issues;

(b) The issuance of presidential decrees and the holding of national-level conferences, workshops or round tables to build consensus on policy and to mobilize funds to implement environmental action plans within the goal of achieving sustainable development, including natural resources use and green plans;

(c) The highlighting in national policies of the relationship between national action and international cooperation to address global problems, and the increasing participation of concerned groups in the population.

(d) The establishment, strengthening or reorganisation of institutions for environmental action and coordination and the relating of them to development;

(e) The incorporation of environmental concerns into the policies and programmes of development sectors;

(f) The strengthening of environmental legislation relating to areas of priority concern and the development of umbrella environmental laws;

(g) Examination and application of economic policy instruments to achieve environmental goals, including through the application of the polluter-pays principle and financial measures such as charges, levies, taxes and cash-deposit systems;

(h) The examination of the use of pricing as a tool for water and forest conservation and for guiding land use to control and degradation;

(i) The use of environmental impact assessment as the pre-eminent tool of environmental decision-making at the project level;

(j) The upsurge, over the last four years, int he involvement of non-Governmental organizations, community groups and local people in environmental awareness-buildings;

(k) The taking of action to encourage the private sector especially multinational corporations, to participate fully and effectively in the protection and rehabilitation of the

ensure the sustainability of the development process;

3. Notes that organizations and organs of the United National system have taken steps to adjust their programmes and activities to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and have:

(a) Expaneded, accelerated or intensified activities for environmental awareness-building, information dissemination, expert consultation, intergovernmental consultation and consensus-building, technical cooperation, training, research and development, and institutional networking and strengthening;

(b) Made organizational adjustments to link environmental initiatives to development activities and to monitor and pursue development objectives in tandem with environmental goals, while upholding the necessity of development in order to achieve environmental objectives;

(c) Undertaken additional activities arising from the clarification and strengthening of mandates for action for environmental assessment and management and for sustainable development;

(d) Provided global, regional and national-level support for the preparations for the United National Conference on Environment and Development;

4. Reaffirms the provisions of Governing Council decision 16/1 of 31 May 1991 and recognizes that the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil its original mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 may need to be reviewed in the light of the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

5. Wel-comes the positive developments in international cooperation global environmental issues since the adoption by the General Assembly in 1987 of resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, through inter alia, the adoption of the London Amendment of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the adoption of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the negotiations for global treaties on climate change and biodiversity, the numerous regional initiatives, as well as the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

6. Recognizes, however, that the progress towards achieving

sustainable development remains very limited and uneven in many areas and that further action is required, where appropriate, inter alia, such as is recommended in chapters V and VI of the consolidated report of the Secretary General;

7. Calls upon Governments to devote increased attention to implementation of action to achieve sustainable development and to allocate and resources required;

8. Also calls upon governments to identify ways and means to provide, in particular to developing countries, adequate new and additional financial resources, as well as transfer of environmentally sound technology on most favorable terms, for this purpose;

9. Further calls upon Governments to consider the outlook on sustainable world development presented in chapter V of the Secretary-General's report and, where appropriate, to accelerate further the actions they have already started, as relected in paragraphs 2,3 and 5 of the present decision and take new actions to respond to the points raised in that chapter of the report, to further progress towards environmentally sound and sustainable development;

10. Recommends to the General Assembly that the Progress towards environmentally sound and sustainable development be periodically reviewed and that it request the Secretary General to bring to its attention any innovative or promising initiatives in that regard;

11. Invites the Committee of Permanent Representatives together with other interested Government and in cooperation with the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme to study and prepare proposals fo the seventeenth session of the Government Council for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations Environment Programme in fulfilling its mandate, in accordance with the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment, and Development and the decisions taken by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, also taking into account relevant reports, especially the first - and second - phase studies on the management and organization of the United nations Environment Programme, prepared in accordance with government Council decision 16/6 of 31 May 1991;

12. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to bring the present decision and the Secretary-General's consolidated report on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 to the attention of the conference through its Preparatory Committee at its fourth session.,

13. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Council at its

seventeenth regular session on the implementation of the present decision.

5th meeting
5 February ,1992.

SS. III/3. The State of the environment (1972-1992)

The Governing Council,

I. Analytical Report of the Executive Director on the state of the environment (1972-1992) ("the State of the environment (19972-1992): saving our planet-challenges and hopes")

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 on institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation in particular section I, paragraph 2 (d) thereof, by which the Assembly decided that one of the main functions and responsibilities of the Governing Council would be to keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments,

Further recalling its decision 15/13 A of 23 May 1989, by Paragraph 7 (b) of which it requested the Executive Director to prepare, for presentation to the United Nations Director too prepare, for presentation to the United Nations Conference on Environment and development planned for 1992, a brief analytical report on changes in the state of the world environment since 1972,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, by section I, paragraph 15 (a), of which the Assembly decided that one of the objectives of the Conference, in addressing environmental issues in the development context, should be to examine the states of the environment and changes that have occurred since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in 1972,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the analytical report of the Executive Director entitled "The state of the environment (1972-1992): saving our Planet-challenges and hopes".

2. Expresses its deep concern at the evidence adduced in the report and elsewhere of the continued deterioration of the state of the environment in many areas;

3. Requests the Executive Director to bring his analytical report on the state of the environment (1972-1992) and the present decision to the attention of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, through its Secretary-General and the Preparatory Committee for the Conference as its fourth session;

II. The state of the environment resulting from the situation between Iraq and Kuwait

Expressing further its deep concern over the environmental consequences resulting from the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and the resulting serious deterioration of the marine, Coastal, and terrestrial environments and the possible long term effects of atmospheric pollution, as

well as over the adverse socio-economic impacts of these environmental consequences on the States of the region and neighbouring countries,

Having taken note with appreciation of the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, through his personal representative, in confirming the nature and extent of the environmental and socio-economic damage suffered in the regions,

Having also taken note with appreciation of the efforts of the United Nations inter-agency task force established by the United Nations Environment Programme, the plan of Action that it developed, and the contributions by various donors to two trust funds established by the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization and the Executive director of the United Nations Environment programme respectively to deal with the emergency situation in the region,

Also recognizing the fact that dealing with this environmental catastrophe goes beyond the capabilities of the countries of the region, and hence the need for strengthened international cooperation to deal with the issue,

1. Brings to the attention of the Governments the urgent need for the rehabilitation of the environmental destruction in the region, with particular emphasis on marine life cycles (fisheries) and possible long-term deleterious effects on human health, as made evident by the findings of the United Nations inter-agency task force established by the United Nations Environment Programme to assess the environmental situation in that area, in accordance with the Consolidated Rehabilitation programme prepared by the governments of the region in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United National Development Programme and all relevant United Nations agencies and organs as well as other international organizations;

2. Invites the international Community, Governments and intergovernmental organizations - within and outside the United Nations system - to participate actively, technically, and financially, in rehabilitation programme aimed at the mitigation of the environmental deterioration of the region, and in the strengthening of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment to enhance its capability to coordinate and implement these programmes;

3. Requests the Executive Director to bring the Present decision and the Consolidated Rehabilitation Programme to the attention of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development through its Preparatory Committee, and to cooperate fully with the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Implementation of the Rehabilitation Programme.

5th meeting

5 February 1992.